

## Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BRUSSELS 04283

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

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SUBJECT: EC COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS, APRIL 25-26 1977

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1.SUMMARY: AFTER MODESTLY INCREASING THE CONSUMER SUBSIDY FOR BUTTER  
IN THE UK,THE COUNCIL REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE 1977/78 PRICE PACKAGE.  
THE REST OF THE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL ADVANCED BY THE COMMISSION AT  
THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING REMAINED VIRTUALLY INTACT.THE NEW 1977/78  
PRICES,WHICH WERE AN AVERAGE 3.5 PERCENT HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR,WERE  
REPORTED REF H.OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE PACKAGE ARE OUTLINED BELOW  
THE COUNCIL ALSO AGREED ON THE MANDATE FOR THE ACP SUGAR NEGOTIATIONS,  
BASIC AMENDMENTS TO THE HOPS CAP,AND A 1-MONTH EXTENSION OF THE BAN  
ON HERRING FISHING IN THE NORTH SEA.END SUMMARY.

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2.AS REPORTED REF.A THE COUNCIL REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE 1977/78  
PRICE PACKAGE ABOUT 1 AM.TUESDAY MORNING.THEIR DISCUSSION FOCUSSED AL-  
MOST ENTIRELY ON THE AMOUNT OF THE SUBSIDY ON BUTER FOR UK  
CONSUMERS.OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE COMPROMISE ADVANCED BY THE COMMI  
SION AT THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING (REFE),WERE NOT RE-OPENED  
AS THE EIGHT MEMBER STATES,EXCLUDING THE UK,HONORED THEIR

COMMITMENTS TO SUPPORT THAT PACKAGE.THE GREATEST OPPOSITION TO IMPROVING THE OFFER ON THE CONSUMER SUBSIDY REPORTEDLY CAME FROM FRANCE AND BELGIM WHO OBJECTED " IN PRINCIPLE" TO A SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD ENABLE UK BUTTER PRICES TO FALL EVEN IF ONLY FOR A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD.

IN TEH END IT WAS AGREED THAT A CONSUMER SUBSIDY ON BUTTER OF 33 U.A./100 KG,FINANCED ENTIRELY BY FEOGA,WOULD BE PAID IN THE UK UNTIL APRIL 1, 1978.THE ESTIMATED COST OF THIS MEASURE TO THE EC BUDGET IS ABOUT 55 MILLION U.A. THE UK ALSO OBTAINED A COMMITMENT THAT THE SUBSIDY WOULD BE CONTINUED NEXT MARKETING YEAR AT A REDUCED RATE ALTHOUGH IT IS TO BE PHASED OUT COMPLETELY BY THE END OF 1978.THE COMMISSION'S PREVIOUS OFFER WAS 30 UA.DURING THE APRIL 1 - DECEMBER 31, 1977 PERIOD AND 25 U.A./100 KG DURING THE JANUARY 1 - MARCH 31,1978 PERIOD.THE COUNCIL ALSO RAISED THE CEILING ON THE EXISTING BUTTER SUBSIDY PROGRAM FROM 50 TO 56 UAM/ 100 KG.FOR MEMBER STATES OTHER THAN THE UK,FEOGA WILL FINANCE 25 PERCENT OF THE SUBSIDY UP TO 20 UA.

ABOVE THAT IT WILL FINANCE 50 ERCENT OF THE SUBSIDYIN THE CASE OF THE UK,FEOGA WOULD FINANCE ONLY 25 PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT IN EXCESS OF 33 UA.HOWEVER,ONLY IRELAND IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE PROVISIONS.

3.IN A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE AGREEMENT ON PRICES, COUNCIL PRESIDENT SILKIN DESCRIBED THE AGREEMENT AS A "VERY GOOD DEAL FOR BRITISH HOUSEWIVES AND CONSUMERS." HE SAID THAT THE UK DELEGATION HAD ACHIEVED ITS MAJOR GOALS FOR BRITISH CONSUMERS, NOTING THAT THE ORIGINAL COMMISSION PRICE PACKAGE WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN A 1.25 PERCENT INCREASE IN BRITISH FOOD PRICES WHEREAS IT NOW WOULD RESULT ONLY IN A .33 PERCENT INCREASE.(THESE UNCLASSIFIED

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FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE THE EFFECT OF THE TRANSTIONAL PRICE INCREASES,)

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE SUBSIDY COULD RESULT IN A 5 PENCE PER POUND DECREASE IN UK RETAIL PRICES FOR BUTTER IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HOWEVER,UK PRICES WILL RISE LATER THIS YEAR DUE TO GREEN POUND CHANGES (SEPTEMBER )AND THE LAST ROUND OF TRANSITIONAL PRICE INCREASES (JANUARY 1, 1978).

4.WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE CONSUMER SUBSIDY FOR BUTTER,THE PRICE PACKAGE REMAINS BASICALLY AS REPORTED IN REF.E.A LIST FJ THE NEW 1977/78 PRICES HAS BEEN REPORTED (REF.H).OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE PACKAGE ARE OUTLINED IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS.THE COMMISSION'S ORIGINAL PROPOSALS WERE DISCUSSED IN REF.B - D.

THE COMMISSON ESTIMATES THAT THE PRICE PACKAGE WILL RESULT IN ADDITIONAL EC BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF 210-200 MILLION U.A.IN 1977.

5.DAIRY: THE MAJOR FEATURES OF THE EC DAIRY PACKAGE ARE THE CONSUMER BUTTER SUBSIDY (DISCUSSED IN PARAGRAPH 2), A 1.5 PERCENT "CORESPONSIBILITY TAX" ON MIILK PRODUCERS STARTING SEPTEMBER 16,

1977,AND A SYSTEM OF PREMIUMS FOR THE NON- MARKETING OF MILK AND HERD CONVERSION.BEFORE SEPTEMBER 16, 1977,THE COMMISSION IS TO STUDY AND REPORT ON THE POSSIBLE ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES OF APPLYING THE CORESPONSIBILITY TAX IN ITALY.  
THE SYSTEM OF PREMIUMS FOR NON- MARKETING AND CONVERSION,WHICH WILL NOT APPLY TO ITALY,REMAINS BASICALLY AS ROGINALY PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION.HOWEVER,THE AMOUNT OF THE NON- MARKETING PREMIUM FOR QUANTITIES OF MILK LESS THAN 30,000 KG. HAS BEEN LOWERED FROM 100 TO 95 PERCENT OF THE TARGET PRICE.ALSO, THE FINANCING OF THIS PREMIUM WILL NOT BE PAID 100 PERCENT BY FEOGA (60 BY THE GUARANTEE SECTION,AND 40 PERCENT BY THE GUIDANCE SECTION)OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE DAIRY PACKAGE INCLUDE:  
A.SLAUGHER PREMIUMS FOR DISEASED CATTLE  
B.EC FINANCING OF SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM S(FOR A LEAST 5 YEARS);  
C.EXTENSION F THE BAN ON INWARD PROCESSING OF NFDM AND BUTTER UNTIL MARCH 31, 1980  
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D.A BAN ON NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY AIDS CONTRIBUTING TO INCREASED MILK PRODUCTION UNTIL MARCH 31, 1980.HOWEVER, THE COMMISSION INDICATES THAT IT WILL CONSIDER DEROGATIONS FROM THIS BAN IN SPECIAL SITUATIONS- PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF IRELAND.THE COMMISSION ALSO ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO GRANT AIDS UNDER THE GUIDANCE SECTION OF FEOGA TO PROJECTS CONTRIBUTING THE RESALE OF LIQUID SKIM MILK TO FARMERS.  
E.SPECIAL MEASURES TO INCREASE BUTTER CONSUMPTION.THE COMMISSION IS SUPPOSED TO INTRODUCE SUCH MEASURES,WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN SPECIFIED,IN SEPTEMBER 1977.AN APPROPRIATION OF 52 MILLION U.A.WILL BEMADE FOR THE MEASURES,WHICH ARE VIEWED AS A REPLACEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED TAX ON VEGETABLE OILS THEY WILL NOT APPLY IN THE UK  
F.AUTHORIZATION TO THE COMMISSIO TO GRANT SPECIAL SUBSIDIES FOR LIQUID SKIM MILK FOR PIG FEED AND FOR "FRESH" NFDM (I.E.,NOT IN INVERVENTION)FOR USE IN PIG AND PULTR FEEDS.THE COMMISSION HAD PROPOSED IN FEBRUARY THAT THIS AUTHORIZATION BE GRANTED (REF.F).THE ACTUAL LEVELS OF THE SPECIAL SUBSIDIES AND THE AMOUNTS OF NFDM AND LIQUID SKIM COVERED WILL BE SET BY THE COMMISSION USING THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE PROCEDURE.THE COMMISSION INDICATES THAT THESE SPECIAL SUBSIDIES WILL NOT BE APPLIED BEFORE JUNE 1, 1977. IN THE MEANTIME,THE EXISTING SPECIAL SUBSIDY FOR LIQUID SKIM MILK USED FOR ANIMAL FEED IN REGIONS AFFECTED BY THE 1976 DROUGHT WILL TONINUE.

6.THE FOLLOWING COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR THE DAIRY SECTOR WERE NOT ACTED UPON BY THE CONCIL:  
A.THE PROPOSED TAX ON VEGETABLE OIL-NO LONGER UNDER CONSIDERATON  
B.EXCLUSIVE USE OFMILK PROTEIN AND FATS IN DAIRYPRODUCTS.  
THE EXAMINATION OF THIS ISSUE IS CONTINUING AND DECISION IS

SUPPOSED TO BE TAKEN BEFORE JULY 1, 1977  
CLIMITATIONS ON INTERVENTION PRUCHASES OF NFDm FROM DAIRIES  
WHICH HAVE NOT CONCLUDED LONG-TERM CONTRACTS WITH PIG FARMERS.  
SENT BACK TO THE SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE;

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D.SPECIAL PREMIUMS FOR THE CESSATION OF DAIRY FARMING.THIS  
PROPOSAL IS TO BE GIVEN FURTHER STUDY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE REVIEW  
OF THE EXISTING STRUCTURAL PROGRAMS.

7.GRAINS: THE REFERENCE PRICE FOR MILLING QUALITY WHEAT WILL GO  
INTO EFFECT AS SCHEDULED ON AUGUST1, 1977.HOWEVER,FOR THE FIRST  
3 MONTHS AND THE LAST 3 MONTHS OF THE 1977/78 MARKETING YEAR,  
INVERVENTION AGENCIES WILL PURCHASE MILLING QUALITY WHEAT OFFERED  
AT THE REFERENCE PRICE -- I.E.,THE REFERENCE PRICE ILL OPERATE  
EXACTLY AS AN INTERVENTION PRICE.THE COMMISSION ALSO PROPOSES  
THAT THE COUNCIL UNDERTAKE TO RESERVE UP TO 400,000 TONS OF  
MILLING QUALITY WHEAT PUT IN INTERVENTION FOR POSSIBLE TRANSEER TO  
ITALY.THE COMMISSIO HAS ALSO UNDERTAKEN TO PURSUE AN " ACTIVE EXPORT  
POLICY" TO SUPPORT THE MARKET FOR MILLING QUALITY WHEAT.

8.OTHER DECISIONS TAKEN ON GRAINS INCLUDE:  
A.LIMITATIONS F DURUM WHEAT SUBSIDY TO CERTAIN REGIONS IN  
SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL ITALY.SEVERAL REGIONS (MARCH,LAZIO,AND  
TUSCANY)EXCLUDED IN THE COMMISSON'S ORIGINAL PROPOSAL WERE  
ADDED AT THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING  
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B.TRANSFER OF 200,000 TONS OF SOFT WHEAT FROM GERMAN TO ITALIAN INTERVENTION STOCKS, " IF NECESSARY"

C.A REDUCTION OF 3 U.A./T.IN THE LEVY ON CORN IMPORTS INTO ITALY I 1977/78.THE SPECIAL LEVY REDUCTION ENJOYED BY ITALY AHD DECREASED TO 1.50 U.A./M.T.AND WAS SCHEDULED TO BE ELIMINATED AUGUST 1, 1977.

9 SUGAR: COMMISSION PROPOSALS TO APPLY A COMMON POLICY TO ISG GLUCOSE INCLUDING IMPORT LEVIES AND A PRODUCER TAX WERE APPROVED. FOR 1977/78 THE MAXIMUM PRODUCER TAX WIL BE 5 U.A./100 KG. THE COUNCIL HAS INDICATED THAT IF THE CURRENT MARKET SITUATION PERSISTS,THAT THE B QUOTA FOR SUGAR SHOULD BE REDUCED FOR 1978/79. (AT THE LAST MEETING,THEY REJECTED A PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THIS QUOTA FOR 1977/78).THE NATIONAL SUBSIDY FOR A QUOTA SUGAR IN ITALY WILL BE CONTINUED IN 1977/78 SUCH SUBSIDIES ARE NOT TO EXCEED 107 MILLION U.A.

10.OILSEEDS: BEGINNING JULY 1, 1977,INTERVENTION PRUCHASES OF RAPESEED WILL BE LIMITED TO PRODUCTS CONTAINNG LESS THAN 10 PERCENT ERUCIC ACID.ALSO,THE EC INTENDS TO LIMIT 1978/79 DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS OFOR RAPESEED OT PRODUCTS HAVING A LOW ERUCIC ACID CONTENT OR USED BY THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.THE COUNCIL HAS ASKED THE COMMISSION TO EXAMINE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOYBEAN PRODUCTION IN THE COMMUNITY,AS WELL AS THE OPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP CASTORBEAN PRODUC TION IN THE COMMUNITY WITH A VIEW TO MAKING SUITABLE PROPOSALS TO PROMOTE PRODUCTION OF THESE PRODUCTS BEFORE JULY 1, 1977.

11.THE COUNCIL HAS ALSO ASKED THE COMMISSION TO EXAMINE FLUCTUATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY MARKET FOR SEEDS OVER THE PAST 3 YEARS AND TO REPORT THEIR FINDINGS BEFORE JULY 1977.

12.FUITS AND VEGETABLES,WINE: MARKETING PREMIUMS FOR LEMONS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED FOR 1 YEAR AND INCREASED BY 5 PERCENT.MARKETING PREMIUMS FOR ORANGES,MANDARINES AND CLEMENTINES WILL GO UP 3 PERCENT.THE REFERENCE PRICE FOR LEMONS WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

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NEW PROGRAMS PROVIDING FOR PRCESSING SUBSIDIES FOR LEMONS AND FOR SPECIAL SALES OF BLOND ORANGES WITHDRAOWN FROM THE MARKET TO THE EC PROCESSING INDUSTRY HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR THE NEXT 3 MARKETING YEARS.THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN ASKED TO REEXAMINE THE METHOD OF CALCULATING REFERENCE PRICES FOR CITRUS FRUIT AND THE LINK BETWEEN THESE PRICES AND MARKETING PREMIUMS CONVERSION PREMIUMS FOR WINE WILL BE CONTINUED AT A LEVEL OF 1,500 U.A./HA.DURING THE 1977/78 AND 1978/79 MARKETING YEARS,THESE AMOUNTS WERE SUPPOSED

TO HAVE BEEN SLIGHTLY REDUCED.

13.BEEF: THE SLAUGHTER PREMIUM SYSTEM WILL BE CONTINUED THROUGH THE 1977/8 MARKETING YEAR.IN ADDITION,THE SYSTEM OF CALVING PREMIUMS (APPLIED IN ITALY WILL ALSO BE CONTINUED THROUGH 1977/78 THE PREMIUM IS 35 UAMPER CALF.THE COMMISSION HAS ALREADY COMMITTED ITSELF TO A REVIEW OF THE BEEF INTERVENTION SYSTEM BEFORE JULY 1977.THE BRITISH HAVE MADE CLEAR THEIR INTENTION TO PUSH FOR PERMANENT INCLUSIO OF SLAUGHTER PREMIUMS IN THE BEEF CAP.

14.AS THE PRICE PACKAGE WAS WRAPPED UP MONDAY MIGHT,THE COUNCIL WAS ABLE TO CONSIDER A NUMBER OF OTHER ISSUES.THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE MANDATE FOR THE COMMISSION'S NEGOTIATION OF THE 1977/78 PRICE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACP SUGAR.THESE NEGOTIATONS BEGIN APRIL 28.THE COUNCIL ALSO LISTENED TO AN EXCHANGE OF COMPLAINTS BETWEEN FRANCE AND ITALY CONCERNING THE WINE MARKET.THE COMMISS- SION HAS BEEN SKED TO TAKE THESE COMMENTS INTO ACCOUNT IN DRAWING UP ITS PROPOSALS FOR MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURE

15.THE COMMISSION HAS PROPOSED AN EXTENSION OF THE BAN ON NORTH SEA HERRING FISHING THROUGH 1977.HOWEVER,THE COUNCIL WAS ABLE TO AGREE TO ONLY A 1-MONTH EXTENSION (TO MAY 31, 1977). STRONGEST OPPOSITION TO THE EXTENSION OF THE BAN THROUGH 1977 REPORT- EDLY CAME FROM THE DUTCH AND DANES WHO ARGUED THAT THE COMMISSION HAD NO SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE SUPPORTING SUCH A BAN.THE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS IS TO MAKE A GENERAL EXAMINATION OF THE PROBLEM OF HERRING SOTOCKS AT ITS MAY 16-17 MEETING AT WHICH TIME A TECHNICAL REPORT FOR THE SUBJECT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED.

16.THE COUNCIL AGREED,WITH CERTAIN MODIFICATONS,TO THE COMMISSON'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IN THE BASIC HOPS REGULATION.THE UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMISSION PROPOSALS,MOST OF WHICH HAVE BEEN ON THE TABLE SINCE MARCH 1976(REF.G)PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUALITY CERTIFICATE SYSTEM,A TIGHTENING OF THE PRODUCER SUBSIDY PROGRAM, INCREASED ENCOURAGEMENT OTO PRODUCER GROUPS,SUBSIDIES FOR VARIETAL CCONVERSION (ON CONDITION THAT OVERALL AREA BE REDUCED),AND A BAN ON NEW PLANTINGS OF HOPS UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1978.THE NEW CHANGES MADE BY THE COUNCIL WERE MAINLY AIMED AT GVINING MEMBER STATES MORE CONTROL OVER MEASURES AIMED AT STRENGTHENING PRODUCER GROUPS.

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## Message Attributes

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